

Application Serial Number 10/783,861

Attorney Docket No.: 26509-0004

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****NOV 08 2007****AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

Claim 1. (original): A method, comprising:

- (a) staggering a plurality of boards together, such that:
  - (i) the boards' respective adjacent faces abut, and
  - (ii) at least one of the boards' respective edges and the boards' respective ends collectively form a predetermined tongue-and-groove coupling, and
- (b) fixing together the boards so staggered into a brick.

Claim 2. (original): A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein staggering comprises: staggering a plurality of boards together, such that at least one of the boards' respective edges and the boards' respective ends collectively form a symmetrical predetermined tongue-and-groove coupling.

Claim 3. (original): A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein fixing comprises: chemically bonding.

Claim 4. (original): A method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising: cutting the boards to the same nominal dimensions before staggering them.

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Claim 5. (original): A method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein staggering comprises:

- (a) selecting a group of the boards, and
- (b) aligning in a common plane the respective edges of the boards in the group.

Claim 6. (original): A method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising: creating a raceway through the brick.

Claim 7. (original): A method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein creating a raceway comprises: cutting a raceway through the brick.

Claim 8. (original): A method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein creating a raceway comprises: dividing one board into two portions separated by a gap that passes through the brick.

Claim 9. (original): A method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein creating a raceway comprises: cutting one of the boards to a smaller nominal dimension than other boards.

Claim 10. (original): A method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising: fabricating a predetermined cross-coupling on the brick.

Claim 11. (original): An apparatus, comprising:

- (a) a plurality of boards staggered together, such that:
  - (i) the boards' respective adjacent faces abut, and

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(ii) at least one of the boards' respective edges and the boards' respective ends collectively form a predetermined tongue-and-groove coupling, and

(b) means for fixing the plurality of boards together so staggered into a brick.

Claim 12. (original): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein: the plurality of boards are staggered together such that at least one of the boards' respective edges and the boards' respective ends collectively form a symmetrical predetermined tongue-and-groove coupling.

Claim 13. (original): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the means for fixing comprises: a chemical bonding agent.

Claim 14. (original): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein: the boards have been cut before staggering to the same nominal dimensions.

Claim 15. (original): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 14, wherein: one group of the boards has been staggered such that those boards' respective edges are aligned within a common plane.

Claim 16. (currently amended): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, further comprising: a raceway through the brick.

Claim 17. (original): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein:

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- (a) one board is divided into two portions that between them define a gap that passes through the brick, and
- (b) the raceway follows the gap.

Claim 18. (original): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein:

- (a) one board has a smaller nominal dimension than other boards, and
- (b) the raceway follows the smaller board substantially perpendicular to its smaller nominal dimension.

Claim 19. (original): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, further comprising: a cross-coupling on at least one of a face and an edge of the brick.

Claim 20. (original): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 19, wherein: the cross-coupling is proximate one end of the brick.